

H2  
No. SIN/162/10/2007.

⑥

INA memorial in  
Singapore.

Keep

Q.S. Am  
15/12/15



Reframe

SIN/125/2/91

Other References

SIN/321/21/11	INA memorial
SIN/321/30/11	A 35 page Booklet on Netaji brought out by ISEAS and High Commission in 2011
SIN/327/17/12 Index no. 665	Visit by members of Netaji Subhash kranti manch to Singapore in October 2012
SIN/P/162/7/2012 Index no. 716	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and INA Memorial, Singapore, contains clippings of Strait Times of Jan, Feb. 2012
SIN/321/28/13 Index no. 722	Indian Heritage Centre

Pages  
(CORR-1-12)



No. 319 /JS(South)/2008

Fax No. (91-11) 2379-2136  
 Tel. No. (91-11) 2301-2582  
 Email: jssouth@mea.gov.in

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**NEW DELHI**

# Fax

<b>To:</b>	Hicomind Singapore	<b>From:</b>	Biren Nanda, Joint Secretary (South)
<b>Rptd:</b>		<b>Pages:</b>	
		<b>Date:</b>	February 6, 2008.

## HOM from JS (South)

Grateful for your comments on the enclosed letter from Shri Nitish Sengupta, MP on the proposed INA Memorial in Singapore. Grateful suggest a draft reply.

*With kind regards.*



**(Biren Nanda)**  
**Joint Secretary (South)**

What happened after EAM's visit?  
 Kesava prasad gave me to understand  
 that something had moved. Can  
 you check with MFA?

*1-21*

*File*

*Replied by fax.*

*CA*

*MAC*

*24/2*



प्रणब मुखर्जी  
PRANAB MUKHERJEE



विदेश मंत्री, भारत  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA

No.1287/EAM/08

6, February 2008

Dear Dr. Sengupta,


This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 29 January 2008 regarding re-building of INA Memorial in Singapore.

I am having the matter looked into.

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
(Pranab Mukherjee)

Dr. Nitish Sengupta,  
Chairman,  
Board for Reconstruction of  
Public Sector Enterprises,  
Public Enterprises Bhawan,  
Block No.14, CGO Complex,  
Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003.

✓ Copy to Joint Secretary [South] - EAM has desired that this may be looked into and a draft reply from him be put up.

  
[Anil Verma]  
PS to EAM

1287/Enm/08  
4/L

Dr. NITISH SENGUPTA, IAS (Retd.)  
Ex-Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)  
CHAIRMAN  
Ph. : 24360672

Government of India  
BOARD FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF  
PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES  
Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises  
Public Enterprises Bhawan, Block No. 14  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

January 29, 2008.

Dear Shri Mukherjee

I had spoken and written to you earlier regarding the need to rebuild the INA Memorial in Singapore at its original site. You had also told me sometime ago that at present Singapore Government is taking much interest in INA Memorial. They have, in fact, erected on their own a small replica of the original Memorial which was destroyed by the invading British army in 1945. It will be a good idea to erect the original Memorial as far as possible not only to remind us of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the INA but will also serve the purpose of India's relationship with Singapore and South-East Asia. We shall be grateful for any initiative you can take in this matter.

With kind regards and best wishes for the days ahead,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Dr. Nitish Sengupta)

Shri Pranab Mukherjee  
Foreign Minister  
Ministry of External Affairs  
South Block  
New Delhi.



DHC

4



High Commissioner

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA,  
31 GRANGE ROAD,  
SINGAPORE - 239 702,

Tel No. [65] 6238 2510, Fax No. 6737 8696

E-mail: indiahc@pacific.net.sg

Fax Message

S-13/2  
CA

Ref. No. SIN/Pol/162/10/2007	Date: 13 February 2008
To: Shri Biren Nanda, JS (S), Ministry of External Affairs	From : Dr. S. Jaishankar High Commissioner
Rpt:	Number of transmitted pages: 1

Ref your fax No. 319/JS (South)/2008 dated 6 February 2008 regarding the letter from Shri Nitish Sengupta, former MP on the reconstruction of the INA Memorial in Singapore.

2. During EAM's visit, FM Yeo had pointed out that this needs to be handled sensitively and suggested that the two Governments set up a study group. However, neither side has taken an initiative in that regard. I would appreciate your sharing Ministry's thinking in this regard.

3. We understand from the Foreign Office that since EAM's visit, the matter has been given some thought in the larger context of an Indian heritage centre. It is not yet certain whether this deliberation would actually lead to rebuilding of the Memorial, at its earlier site or an alternative one. Perhaps, the matter could be taken up at the first JMC meeting.

4. Our suggestion is that in the interim, a response could be sent to Shri Nitish Sengupta informing him that the matter was discussed during EAM's visit, that the Singapore side had promised to give the proposal due consideration, that there are various sensitivities involved in view of the complicated history of the period, that there would be further discussions between the Governments, and that any action would have to take into account the views of all the concerned parties.

Best Wishes

(S. Jaishankar)



High Commissioner

5

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA,  
31 GRANGE ROAD,  
SINGAPORE – 239 702,

Tel No. [65] 6238 2510, Fax No. 6737 8696

E-mail: indiahc@pacific.net.sg

Fax Message

Dr  
CA

Ref. No. SIN/POL/162/6/2008	Date: 13 February 2008
To: Shri Biren Nanda, JS (S), Ministry of External Affairs	From : Dr. S. Jaishankar High Commissioner
Rpt:	Number of transmitted pages: 1

You will recall that during EAM's visit to Singapore in June 2007, it was agreed that the two Foreign Ministers will chair a joint ministerial committee. The Singapore side has proposed that the first meeting of the JMC could be held in New Delhi and suggested the window of 22 – 26 April 2008 for our consideration.

2. In my discussions with the Foreign Office, I have also confirmed that conceptually, we are on the same page where the working of the JMC is concerned. The Singapore side also expects it to be a multi-ministerial effort, covering the totality of the relationship, but with the Foreign Ministry in the lead.

3. I will revert shortly with a status note on initiatives/proposals for bilateral cooperation currently under consideration as well as some suggestions regarding future initiatives. In the meanwhile, I would be most grateful if you could confirm the acceptance of the proposed dates or alternatively, suggest another window of our convenience.

Best Wishes

(S. Jaishankar)



*Due*



**DR. S. JAISHANKAR**  
High Commissioner

**HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA**

31 GRANGE ROAD

SINGAPORE 239702

Tel. No. 62382510. Fax No. 67378696

E-mail: indiahc@pacific.net.sg

6

No.SIN/125/2/2007

26 February 2007

My dear *Due*,

We had been recently asked to comment on a proposal from Dr. Nitish Sengupta to EAM on the reconstruction of the INA Memorial in Singapore (DS (South)'s fax dated 5 February 2007 refers).

2. I had gone through previous papers on this subject, discovering in the process that this has been taken up off and on by the Mission over the last 50 years. On earlier occasions, the attitude of the Singapore Government was not very encouraging. When I called on FM George Yeo, I took advantage of his personal interest in the INA and his visit to Kolkata to bring up the subject. He was positive, stating that the Singapore Government would be prepared to look at the initiative with an open mind. FM Yeo also mentioned that the reconstruction proposal would be of interest to President S.R. Nathan.

3. Despite FM Yeo's forthcoming attitude, I would still be a little cautious on the matter as the issue of excesses committed during the Japanese Occupation is still alive. In the light of FM Yeo's response, I would appreciate instructions on taking up this matter further with the Government of Singapore.

*But Wishes*

Yours sincerely,

*S Jaishankar*

(S. Jaishankar)

Shri Biren Nanda,  
Joint Secretary (South),  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
South Block,  
New Delhi.

*Due*  
*27/2*  
*CA.*



**Rajesh K. Sachdeva**  
**Deputy High Commissioner**

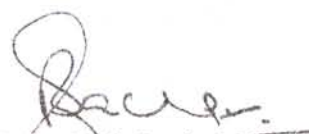
High Commission of India  
31 Grange Road, Singapore 239702  
Tel : 62382521(DID), 67376777  
Fax: 67351739, 67326909  
Email : [ihcdhc@pacific.net.sg](mailto:ihcdhc@pacific.net.sg)

**FAX Message**

<b>Ref No</b>	SIN/P/125/2/2007	<b>Date</b>	20 February 2007
<b>To</b>	Shri B.S. Yadav, DS(South-II), MEA, New Delhi	<b>From</b>	<b>Rajesh K. Sachdeva</b> Deputy High Commissioner
<b>C.C.</b>		No. of transmitted pages : 1 + 1	

CA  
This is in reference to your communication dated 5 February 2007 regarding a letter dated 23 January 2007 addressed to EAM from Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Ex-MP in connection with INA Memorial in Singapore. Based on the records available in the Mission, a draft reply from EAM to Dr. Sengupta is enclosed for consideration.

With regards,

ec  
  
(Rajesh K. Sachdeva)



②

DRAFT

February 2007

Dear

Kindly refer to your letter dated 23 January 2007 regarding the re-erection of the original INA monument in Singapore.

2. As you may be aware, this has been the subject of earlier interaction with the Government of Singapore which was not very encouraging in the past. In recent times, they have shown greater interest in exploring issues related to the contribution of the INA to the anti-colonial movement in Asia. At the same time, you will appreciate the complexities that sensitive historical issues pose in various societies. We need to delicately explore Singaporean thinking on this matter and I hope to revert to you when we have done so.

Yours sincerely,

(Pranab Mukherjee)

Dr. Nitish Sengupta  
Ex-Member of Parliament  
1215 Naurang House  
21, Kasturba Gandhi Marg  
New Delhi 110001

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\*\*\* TX REPORT \*\*\*

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TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO	1256
DESTINATION TEL #	01123792136
DESTINATION ID	JS SEA-II
ST. TIME	20/02 16:34
TIME USE	00'41
PAGES SENT	2
RESULT	OK



HC

(10)

Have we ever taken him  
up?

FAX

FROM: FOREIGN NEW DELHI

TO: HICOMIND SINGAPORE


DHC from DS (South-II)

Faxed herewith is copy of letter dated  
23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2007 addressed to EAM from  
Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Ex-M.P. re. INA  
memorial in Singapore.

Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Ex-M.P. re. INA  
memorial in Singapore.

2. Kindly look into the matter & initiate  
necessary action as deemed appropriate.
3. A draft reply from EAM to Dr. Sengupta  
may please be sent to us at the  
earliest.

Kind regards

  
(B.S. Yadav)  
DS (South-II)  
5/2/07

Briefly discussed.  
As per records, last  
official communication from  
Singapore govt is dated 4/6/77  
(F/A). Singapore's leadership  
view on the subject in 1977  
is at F/B. Minister George Yeo  
during his recent visit to India  
had discussed the INA subject with  
w. Indian government (P/C).

M. J. likes to see pl.  
14/2

11

प्रणब मुखर्जी  
PRANAB MUKHERJEE



विदेश मंत्री, भारत  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA

No. 1094/EAM/2007

1 February, 2007

Dear

I am in receipt of your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2007 regarding recreating the original INA memorial in Singapore.

I am having the matter looked into.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-  
[Pranab Mukherjee]

Dr. Nitish Sengupta,  
Ex-Member of Parliament,  
1215 Naurang House,  
21 Kasturba Gandhi Marg,  
NEW DELHI

Copy, with enclosures to Secretary [East] MEA.

EAM has desired that the matter be looked into, necessary action taken and a draft reply from him put up at the earliest.

[Rakesh Ranjan]  
PS to EAM

*[Signature]*  
2/2

*[Signature]*  
S (South)



655/secy(E)/07  
02/02/07

1094/EAM/07

2/2

Dr Nitish Sengupta, I. A. S (Retd)  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



Office: 1215 Naurang House  
21, Kasturba Gandhi Marg  
New Delhi 110001  
Office Tlf: 4151-0331/0332

January 23, 2007

Dear Shri Mukherjee,

On this day of Netaji Subhas's 110th birthday I feel prompted to write to you on a rather delicate subject matter of the INA memorial in Singapore. The original INA memorial, from all accounts a magnificent structure, was erected in 1944 by the Indian residents of Singapore to commemorate the setting up of Azad Hind Government from Singapore in 1943. At the time of the reconquest of Singapore from the Japanese by the British, the occupying British army simply destroyed the magnificent structure under the orders of Mountbatten. The Government of Singapore, after her independence, erected a tiny replica on that site simply indicating that it was on this site that the INA memorial stood before 1945. With the vastly renewed interest in Netaji and his close contact with South East Asia and East Asia, the time has come when we should think of re-erecting the original memorial at that site. India should broach the subject with the Government of Singapore suggesting that the Government of India will, at its own expense, re-erect the original monument. I am sure the Government of Singapore will not object to it. The memorial no doubt has considerable significance for our freedom movement and for its association with Netaji Subhas. It will be a fitting tribute to the memory of Netaji Subhas and the INA that we try to recreate the original INA memorial where all Indian visitors and many others can go in pilgrimage. I shall be grateful for any initiative that you might like to take in this matter.

With kind regards, & best wishes

Yours sincerely

*Nitish Sengupta*

(Nitish Sengupta)

Shri Pranab Mukherjee  
Minister of External Affairs  
Ministry of External Affairs  
South Block, Central Secretariat  
New Delhi 110011